

Sustainable Backyard Program: NATIVE PLANTS

**50% off
Rebate
Inside!**

Also available: Rebates for Compost Bins, Rain Barrels, and Trees.

Why Plant Native Plants at Home?

- Native prairie, woodland and wetland plants have evolved to thrive in our natural conditions and, after the first season or two of establishment in your yard, typically require less maintenance than a conventional lawn or garden.
- Native plants do not require chemical fertilizer or pesticides and can save you money in the long-term, while helping the environment.
- Native plants can be quite beautiful and lend your backyard a sense of place rooted in natural history, while providing food and shelter for birds and beneficial insects (e.g. dragonflies that eat mosquitoes).
- Native and other deep-rooted plants help direct rainwater into the soil and if planted in a rain garden in conjunction with a disconnected downspout, native plants are especially effective for managing stormwater.



A monarch butterfly rests on a milkweed flower.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lawn irrigation can account for as much as 30% of a typical resident's water use. Native plants require less irrigation, and actually help reduce stormwater runoff.

We can help!

Rebates

We want to give you 50% (up to \$60 rebate) off any locally-purchased native plants! All you have to do is fill out the attached rebate form and send it in with your original purchase receipt. See rebate form (attached) for more details.

Workshops

Attend a free Sustainable Backyard Workshop! The Chicago Department of Environment, along with its Sustainable Backyard partners, will be hosting a series of free informative workshops across the city. You'll learn what you can do to green your backyard; the basics of installing and maintaining rain barrels, compost bins, trees and native plants; and where to go for more resources. For more details, visit: www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel.

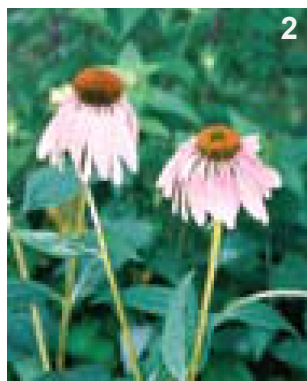
Resources

UIUC Extension Master Gardener Program:
<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/>

University of Minnesota "Plant Elements of Design":
www.sustland.umn.edu/plant/

City of Chicago Rain Garden Brochure:
www.cityofchicago.org/Environment

Rain Garden Network:
www.raingardennetwork.com



1: Black-Eyed Susan 2: Purple Cone Flower
3: Jacob's Ladder 4: Cardinal Flower
5: Golden Alexander

NATIVE PLANTS: how to...

What to Do Before You Plant

There are many varieties of native plants available through Chicago's local garden centers and nurseries. Much like planning any other type of landscaping, you should take stock of your backyard resources before deciding which plants to buy:

- How much sun do you get in your backyard?
- What is the soil like?
- Are there any low areas that tend to collect water during rains?
- How much space is available for adding new plants?
- Can you remove some of your turf grass to make more room?

How to Care for Your Native Plants

Every species and variety of native plant has a different set of needs, so be sure to speak with the experts at your local garden center when you make your purchase. In general, deep-rooted perennials will need some time to establish themselves. You should be ready to provide extra care through watering and weeding during the first season or two, depending on the variety you have selected.

Local Examples of Native Plant Landscaping

- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Prairie - 2430 N Cannon Drive
- The Chicago Center for Green Technology - 445 N Sacramento Blvd
- McCormick Center Butterfly Garden - 2301 S Lake Shore Drive
- Northerly Island - 1400 S Lynn White Drive
- The Lurie Garden at Millennium Park - 201 E Randolph Street
- Nature Boardwalk at the Lincoln Park Zoo - 2001 N Clark Street
- North Park Village Nature Center - 5801 N Pulaski Road



Wild Bergamot

Recommended Native Plants for Chicago

With these things in mind, ask your local garden center experts which kinds of plants will work best for you. Here are a few common situations and the plants that will thrive under those conditions:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Type	Notes	Soil Requirements	
Meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Shrub	White flower clusters bloom in early summer.	Wet to moist and well-drained.	
Northern Sea Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Grass	Beautiful seed heads for cut and dried arrangements.	Moist and well-drained to dry.	
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Grass	Lacy sprays, grass turns yellow in fall.	Wet to moist and well-drained.	
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Grass	Ornamental grass forms very dense mounds.	Moist and well-drained to dry.	
Nodding Wild Onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Flower	Pink flower clusters nod to ground, bulbs can be used raw, boiled, pickled or as seasoning.	Wet to moist and well-drained.	
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Flower	Bright orange flowers are loved by butterflies.	Moist and well-drained to dry.	
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	Flower	Showy, bright purple or white flowers have orange centers.	Wet to moist and well-drained.	
Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Flower	Pale petals droop from large cone-shaped center.	Moist and well-drained to dry.	
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Flower	Popular native, long-lasting lavender flowers.	Wet to moist and well-drained.	
Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Flower	Tough stems support balls of white flowers.	Wet to moist and well-drained.	
Blue Flag Iris	<i>Iris virginica shrevii</i>	Flower	Fragrant blue-violet flowers.	Wet to moist and well-drained.	
Blazingstar	<i>Liatris spp.</i>	Flower	Striking, long purple flower heads.	Tolerant of most soils	
Virginia Blue Bells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Flower	Lovely, blue flowers, great for under trees.	Moist and well-drained.	
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Flower	Flowers of lavender or pink pompoms, plant parts used for tea.	Tolerant of most soils	
Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Petalostemum purpureum</i>	Flower	Beautiful in bouquets, flowers attract butterflies and bees.	Moist and well-drained to dry.	
Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Flower	Spring bloom of apple-blossom-like flower.	Moist and well-drained.	

For a full list of recommended native plants, visit www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel.

Symbol Key: Rain Garden Plant Beneficial to birds and butterflies
 Sunlight Requirements: Full Sun Partial Sun Full Shade

City of Chicago Rebate Form: NATIVE PLANTS

Thank you for purchasing native plants and taking part in Chicago's effort to manage stormwater, increase biodiversity, and reduce the urban heat island effect. Please provide the following information and original itemized receipt to receive your rebate. **Illegible or incomplete forms will not be accepted.**

Personal Information

(please print clearly to receive your rebate):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: Chicago Zip: 606 _____

Phone: () _____

Email Address: _____

Native Plants Planted at: ☐ same address as above

Address: _____

City: Chicago Zip: 606 _____

Where did you hear about this program?

Where did you get this rebate form?

Native Plant Information

Where did you purchase your native plant(s)?

Date of purchase: _____

Plant Species Purchased (list all that apply):

	Species	Size (gallons, etc)	Price Paid
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

If you need more space, feel free to attach a separate page.

Do you have other native plants in your yard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why did you decide to purchase native plants (check all that apply)?

☐ I like the way they look

☐ I want to help manage stormwater

☐ To increase my property value

☐ Other: _____

Would you have purchased this item if a rebate was not available?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Total Spent: \$ _____

I pledge the information I have provided is accurate and that I have read and understand the attached information. Signature: _____

Total Rebate Requested (50%, up to \$60): \$ _____

Date: _____

(sign here)

CUT HERE - Below This Line is for Your Records

Rebate Information

- Original receipt (clearly indicating purchase) and completed Rebate Form must be post-marked by December 31, 2011. The City of Chicago reserves the right to deny rebate applications with unclear receipts.
- Rebate checks may take up to 3 months to process.
- Rebate amount: 50% off original purchase price, up to \$60 rebate, per household, per year.
- If you have any questions on the rebate process, please call 312.743.9283 or email rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org.
- Maximum rebates: Rain Barrels \$40, Compost Bins \$50, Native Plants \$60, Trees \$100.

To receive your rebate, please complete the top of this form and submit it along with the original receipt by December 31, 2011, to:

Chicago Sustainable Backyard Program
Chicago Department of Environment
30 N. LaSalle, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

Rebate Rules/Restrictions

- Rebates are only available to City of Chicago residents and native plants must be planted at a Chicago residence. Limit one of each rebate type (rain barrel, compost bin, tree, native plants) per installation address, per year. Residents are encouraged to purchase more than one tree and native plant, but should submit all 2011 native plant and tree rebates at once.
- Native plants must be purchased between September 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011.
- Rebates will not be offered for plants purchased online or outside the state of Illinois. Rebates are only available for the cost of plants. Other materials, taxes and individual costs will not be applied to rebates.



Richard M. Daley
Mayor



Department of
Environment

